

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
POLLUTION REPORT**

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



201979

Date: Monday, September 08, 2003

From: James J. Justice, OSC

To: Ray Worley, U.S. EPA OSWER Jason El-Zein, U.S. EPA ERB RS1 Sally Jansen, U.S. EPA ESS Mick Hans, U.S. EPA OPA John Maritote, U.S. EPA ERB Tracy Johnson, U.S. EPA ERB Brendan Boyle, MDCH	Rick Karl, U.S. EPA ERB William Messenger, U.S. EPA ERB Afif Marouf, U.S. EPA H&S Stuart Hill, U.S. EPA OPA Nabil Seif, MDEQ Duty Office, NRC
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Subject: Polrep 2
American Recycling Fire
4676 E. Wilder Road, Bay City, MI

POLREP No.: 2	Site #: B57E
Reporting Period: 7/10/03 to 9/8/03	D.O. #: N/A
Start Date: 7/7/2003	Response Authority: CERCLA
Mob Date: 7/7/2003	Response Type: Emergency
Completion Date:	NPL Status: Non NPL
CERCLIS ID #:	Incident Category: Removal Assessment
RCRIS ID #:	Contract #

Site Description

1. Site Location

The incident occurred at the American Recycling Center Inc., (ARCI) warehouse facility located at 4676 E. Wilder Road in Bay City, Bay County, Michigan. The area is immediately surrounded by commercial and light industrial facilities. Sparsely populated residential areas are located to the north and east with the more densely populated areas located to the south and west. The Saginaw River is located approximately 0.75 miles to the south and the Saginaw Bay is located approximately 1.75 miles to the north.

2. Description of Threat

At approximately 0300 hours on July 7, 2003, the Bay City Fire Department (BCFD) responded to a fire at the ARCI warehouse facility. The warehouse was used primarily for the storage of approximately 100 tons of shredded industrial scrap rubber and approximately 150 fifty-five gallon drums of motor, transmission and hydraulic oil. The smoke plume

associated with the fire migrated over the northern portion of Bay City and Saginaw Bay. Inhalation of smoke from the combustion of rubber products and the other organic compounds could be toxic; therefore, the BCFD and Bay County Emergency Services ordered the evacuation of residents downwind (north) in The Sunset Shores Marina and Delta College Sailing School vicinity and businesses within the immediate vicinity of the fire as a precautionary measure.

Current Activities

1. Current situation:

Responders to the fire included the Bay City Fire Department, Saginaw Fire Department, Bay County Emergency Management Services, Michigan State Police (MSP), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. EPA. U.S. EPA tasked the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) to screen the perimeter of incident area for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and particulates. Twelve air monitoring stations were established in the immediate vicinity of the fire and were monitored every 1-2 hours. The fire has been extinguished and VOC and particulate concentrations have returned to background levels. Residents returned to their homes on July 7, 2003 at approximately 6:00 PM after the BCFD lifted the evacuation order.

2. Site activities to date:

July 10, 2003:

Young's Environmental Cleanup, Inc. (YECI) contractor for ARCI, staged and consolidated the drums involved in the fire. YECI pumped approximately 1,600 gallons of oil from drums and transported it to the Karbowski Oil facility in Bay City pending laboratory analytical results and disposal approval. YECI overpacked 24 drums that contained grease and stored them on site pending laboratory analytical results and disposal approval.

YECI collected samples of the fire suppression water that accumulated in the basement. YECI also collected soil samples at the interface of the rubber material and the sand used to suppress the fire. These analytical results will be used for disposal characterization. YECI identified 10 hotspots to be used for temperature monitoring, based on aerial infrared fly-over results. YECI and START demobilized from site.

July 28, 2003:

START mobilized to investigate reports of the fire continuing to smolder. Areas near the northern portion of the remaining building footprint, as well as the areas where scrap steel remained, were visibly smoldering or had visible flames associated with it. ARCI contracted Goshaw trucking to apply additional sand to the burning areas. Goshaw and START demobilized from site.

August 20, 2003:

START and EPA arrived on site to check site conditions. Areas near the northern footprint were smoldering and small areas of open flames were observed. The PRP was contacted to address these issues by U.S. EPA.

August 21, 2003:

START mobilized to site to conduct oversight of the sand application to the smoldering areas. All smoldering ceased and START and ARCI's contractor demobilized from site.

August 29, 2003:

START mobilized to site to check site conditions. Only small areas of the site were smoldering. These areas were covered by hand with sand and all smoldering ceased. START demobilized from site.

Planned Removal Actions

The temperature of the smothered rubber will continue to be monitored to determine when soil cleanup operations can begin. Periodic site visits will be conducted to verify all smoldering has ceased.

Next Steps

U.S. EPA will continue to conduct oversight of removal activities and coordinate with MDEQ and YECI to ensure the proper disposal of materials transported off-site.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

Disposition of Wastes

Waste Stream	Quantity	Manifest #	Disposal Facility
Overpacked Grease Drums	24		Venice Park Lennon, MI
Waste Oil	1,600 Gallons		American Resource Recovery, Ltd.

www.epaosc.net/AmericanRecycling